

Paid March 17 1824
W. R. H.
Dean

By
Joseph William Grimes
Greensborough
Georgia

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The rules of the institution make it essentially necessary that a candidate for medical honors shall compose a dissertation on some one subject, or subjects connected with medicine as a test of his abilities.

I have selected for my Inaugural Essay the Malignant fever as it prevailed in the county of Greene and Town of Greensborough in the summer and autumn of the year 1822. This fever made its attack principally on children and that early in the spring in the form of cholera infantum, though adults were not entirely exempt.

A grand and principal exciting cause with children was that of teething, to which cause their illness was generally attributed.

The manner in which this disease ushered itself in, was that of frequent vomiting, great irritation of the bowels, and dysentery, every species of diet

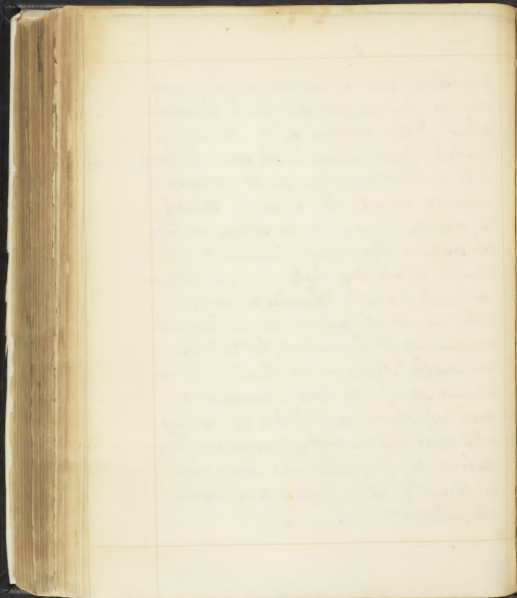
The first of the winter months
is the best time to visit the
mountains. The weather is
just what is needed for a
pleasant trip. The scenery is
beautiful. The mountains are
very high. The snow is
very deep. The water is
very clear. The air is
very fresh. The food is
very good. The people are
very friendly. The trip is
very interesting. The
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when swallowed being rejected, and it is incredible to state the immense quantities of bile vomited, the great irritation of the bowels caused continued restlessness, tossing the extremities, rolling the head from side to side, which last continued throughout the disease and had every appearance of Hydrocephalus. Tongue very much furred, at other times red and parched, breath hot and offensive, frequent and tense pulse, dry skin, hurried respiration, dull eyes, though not invariably the case, at times quite a fierce look, stools frequent, very dark or green mixed with blood and mucus.

The treatment of this disease consisted in cleansing the alimentary canal and determining to the surface. The means to be used in effecting this must be evident to every practitioner. I will first commence with the use of Emetics. These were invaluable auxiliaries and promoters of relief

and should never be neglected in this fever as they too often are and that through a mistaken notion of their deleterious effect. Are not their beneficial effects produced on the system too obvious to be overlooked or neglected, for the interposition of inadequate means? They cleanse the stomach of its crudities, determine to the surface, and leave the system in that condition, favourable for the operation of cathartics, effects, which, when obtained are grand and within themselves important.

They are not only important and necessary in the commencement of the treatment, but they also demanded the attention of the Physician in a more advanced stage (if the little patient was not too much exhausted to admit of their administration) when there was considerable tenismus and bloody discharges. they frequently acted like a charm in diverting the action of the intestines, when all other attempts failed.



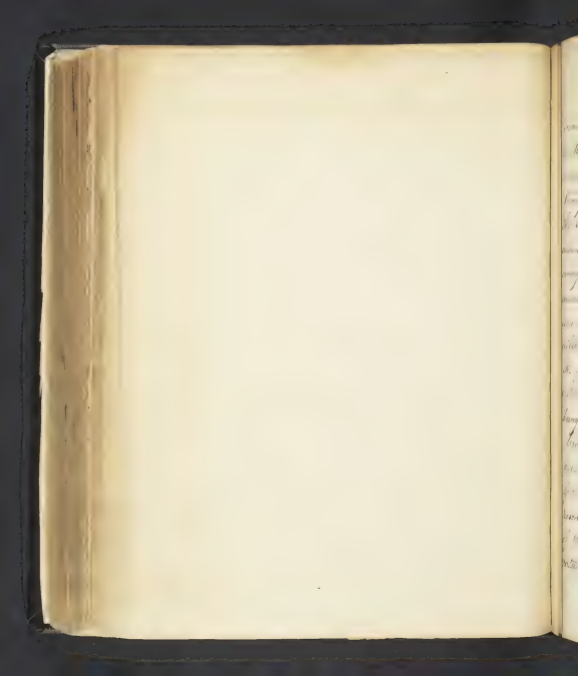
Cathartics

These were important ingredients in that bitter
cup, which so much tends to relieve the system of a
burthen it would otherwise sink under. Every
person is convinced of the propriety and reason
why purgatives are resorted to in fevers, it is
not only to aid in reducing excessive action, by
detaching a certain fluid through the medium of
the exhalants of the *prima viæ*, but to aid
nature in expelling from her offended bowels, their
vitiated contents, emerged from the hepatic system
and morbid secretion of the intestines. There is no
one article in the *materia medica* so effectual in
its action on the liver and bowels in Southern
climates as the submuriate of mercury.

All other cathartics when given, if not rejected
by vomiting, it is true will purge, but they have
not the desired effect, the passages being copious and
watery, which exhausts the patient, not so with calomel,

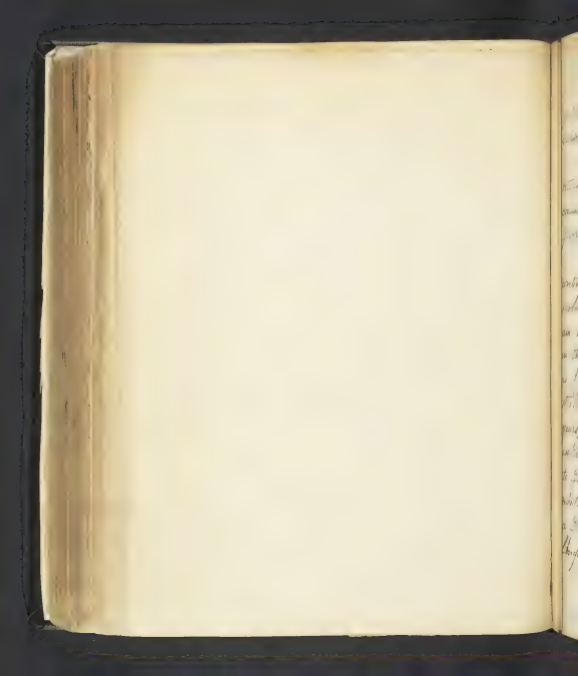
gave it in broken doses (viz. for a child not under ten or twelve months of age) gave from one a half to two grains, every two hours until it should have taken six or eight; if this did not operate sufficiently, we gave its cecum with mild laxatives, such as *var. Epsom*, *Urum Muri* or *Magnesia Fithurbark*.

After the dark, green or bloody evacuations ceased their colour to that of *stercor* (which you would expect to see in administration of cathartics) we considered it as an important and favourable omen, the tongue becoming clean and moist, surface soft, countenance and eyes assuming their wonted animation and cheerfulness, the little ^{patient} was then as it were snatched from the jaws of death. Though it was upon the case after having used our utmost exertions, the disease continued so obstinately intractable from the long continued and violent *tenesmus*, which at this stage of the malady was confined principally to the *Noctum*, that we were compelled to



resort to the use of opiates, can. n. & such
stimulants. Rubbing the bowels and spine with
even laudanum was also a promoter of relief.
Giving it by the mouth had a tendency to answer
the stomach and bowels, by rendering the patient costive
and exciting fever. In the treatment of this disease
being the great irritability of the intestines, requires
undivided our particular and strict attention, for there
was much to be effected, by adapting the diet to the
different states of the stomach and bowels.

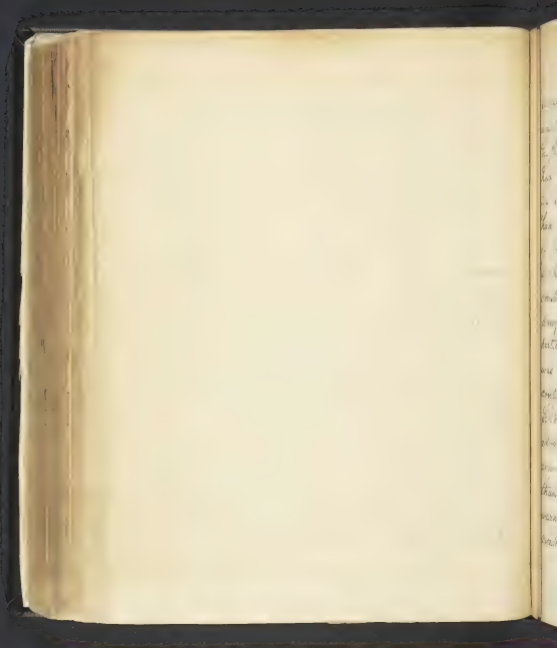
At particular stages of this malady every species of
stimulus was needed, & consequently necessary this
being the case the use of some astringent,
lime water or the chalk mixture. Also to apply
over the epigastrie region, must leaves steeped in
juice, If those remedies should fail, we must
resort to blisters or sinapiams applied over the region
of the stomach and between the scapulae as the most
certain means of relief to our greatest anxieties and



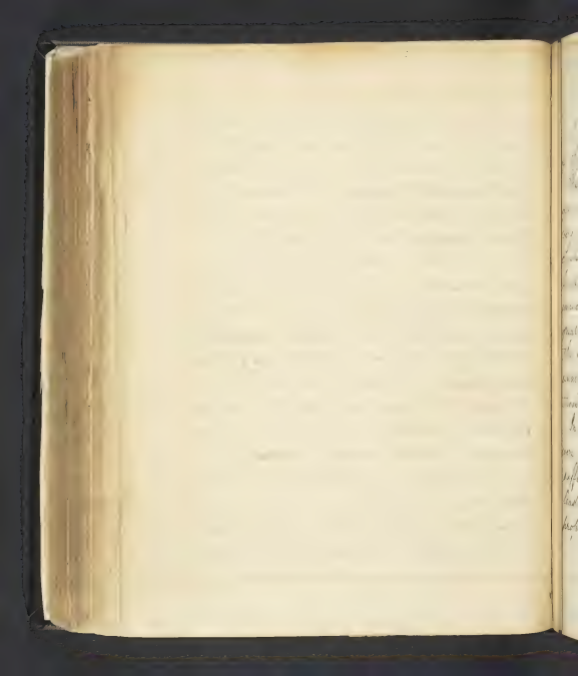
patient's sufferings. After the stomach became
quiescent we gave her some food.

Having gone through the description and
treatment of cholera infantum, I shall now
commence with the bilious Remittent or Continued
fever of this autumn.

Not having the smallest idea of
writing my Thesis on the malignant fever which
prevailed last year until a short time since, I
am not so well prepared to state the exact changes
in the weather as I would otherwise have been or
as I would wish to be; though, there was su-
stribing peculiarities from that of many other
years, the early part of the spring was
extremely wet, frequent heavy rains continued
to fall throughout April and May. In the
month of June the weather was variable and
a few cases of bilious fever occurred. The
longest drought we had during the whole



common, occasional strong winds, but the
 sun light and warm, we are told the
 highest temperature during the year is that we
 had throughout the summer. The thermometer in
 the shade rose as high as 95.th to 96.th. We
 had a considerable change in the temperature
 of the weather in August, the thermometer
 sunk unusually low, the wind blowing north
 constantly from the N. E. causing a cool and
 damp atmosphere, which was very disagreeable
 particularly in the mornings and evenings, this
 was succeeded by unusual warm weather, fogs
 continued to increase throughout this month and
 September, becoming more malignant as the season
 advanced. Variable weather, but more moderate
 and the temperature somewhat lower in October
 than it was in September, yet continued unusually
 warm for the season of the year. The whole
 month of November was extremely mild & temperate.



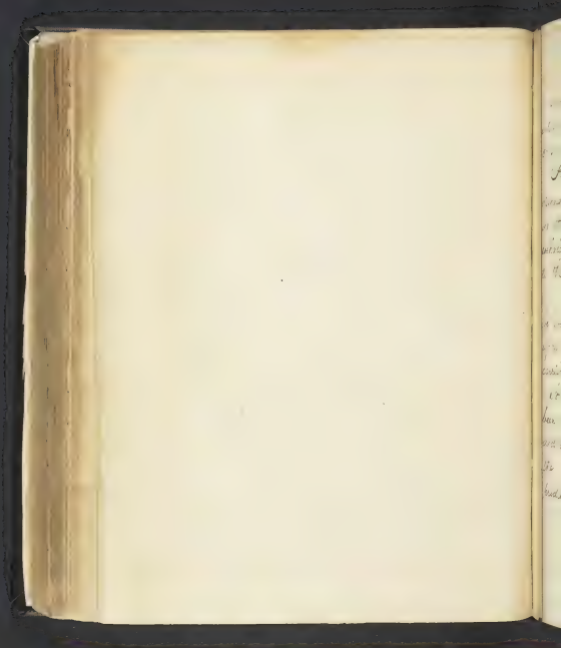
Causes of Fever

The cause of the fever is the same as this both in the climate and the soil.

The local situation of this village and country generally is conducive to the fever. The town is very elevated, on the West there is a considerable creek, which runs through very flat and rich land one mile and a half distant, on the East immediately without the precincts there is a brook, great swamp, and vegetable matter, which from the course of nature is consequently compelled to undergo a state of putrefaction, on the South these two streams form a junction.

In the months of September and October, there were considerable fogs, which are within themselves sufficient to convince every person who has the least idea of disease and its causes, of the propriety and correctness of this statement.

The Cause is the same as the great number of



some of the cases, in which are created in the, are
intermediate throughout the country, and in which
and in the water, is the water, is the water.

St. Lempiere in his observations upon the
cases of the British Commission in Jamaica informs
us that the town of Santiago was reached by
coastalations from a lagoon which lies nine miles
to the eastward of that town.

In fact the distance to which malaria can
be wafted is not definitely known, it depends
upon prevailing winds, but it can generally be
carried a much greater distance than is supposed.
Some authors mention instances where it has
been conveyed in strong currents of air 100-120 miles
and even further. The marshes and grounds to
the South, also, probably have some influence in
producing this fever.

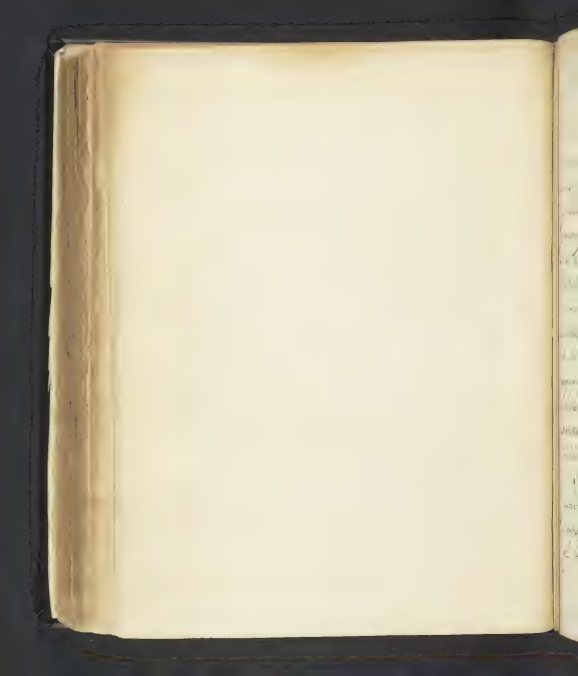
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I do not doubt this fact for so soon as the
 was dropped its 'flow' just as seen by continued
 at this, which often had moderate and common
 and placed the system in an apt situation for the
 reception of the most excellent course of medical disease

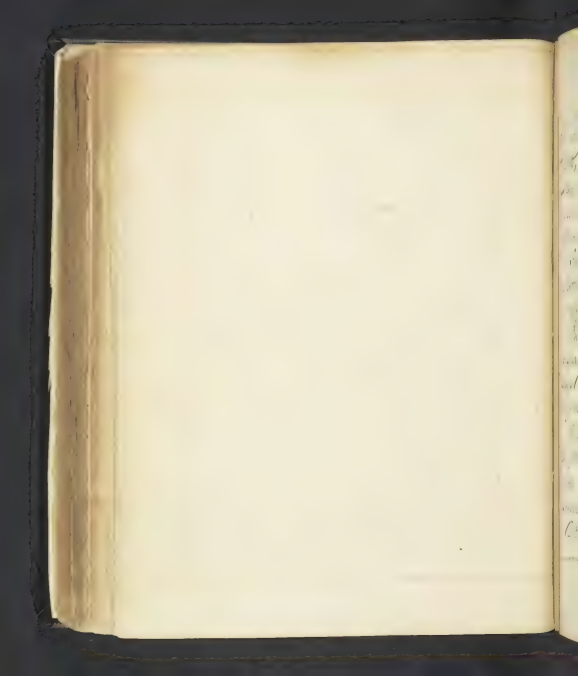
This is the reason why I believe Great to be a cause. Why is 'fatigue' viewed as a predisposing or exciting cause; why is an immoderate use of spirits or any of the intoxicating poisons, such as beer, grief, anxiety &c. ? Because they debilitate the system and leave it in that unguarded state, not able to defend itself against the attack of miasma or any other stimulus or poison.



Heart

The liver, as we have seen, is affected
 in a manner similar to the stomach, & it is
 this union principally, in the connection between
 of heart. It is here it acts on the system
 generally, all its effects in the system is more
 more evident. When a person is in a state of
 heat, there is an increase in the quantity of
 action, which is seen in the lungs & in the
 system of the veins and those of the venous system
 at the liver, a quantity, which as far as I am
 acquainted, has not been noticed by any other; and
 which, if proved will account for the increased
 secretion of bile in hot climates, and lead to
 important practical conclusions.

If we observe those emaciated objects returning
 from the east and west Indies, with indurated
 livers, sallow complexions, torrid bowels and want
 of biliary secretion, we invariably find the liver



ly, increased and vice versa in health and they also bear a large share in health, and the other variations may be ascribed to some extent in the nature or quantity of food. For the food until the appearance of the eruption.

In diseases where eruption is necessary to cure, there is the most decisive diminution in the eruptive season.

In chlorosis (L^t. Hamilton observes the eruption seems to be checked. He says (L^t. Saunders find a sea voyage useful in much, to restore the action of healthy life.

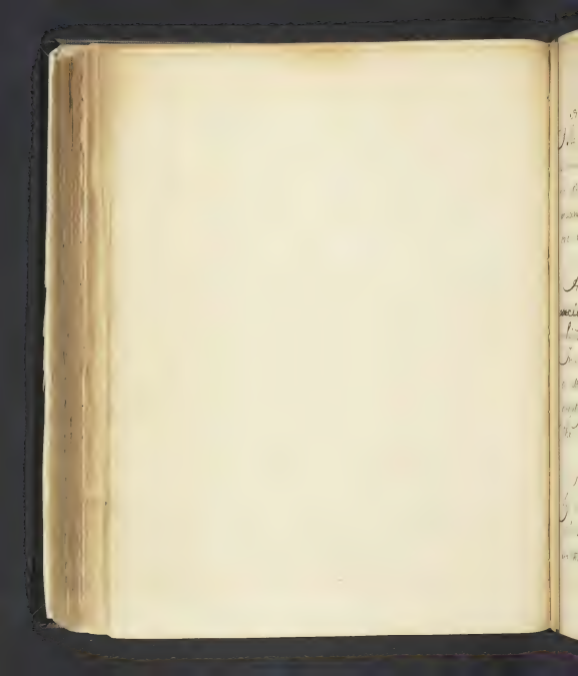
The well known fact of this in determining the surface and promoting perspiration, is being not quite distinct, corresponding with healthy action in the liver and not be assist in.

(L^t. Saunders further observes, not immediately warm in the air, strongly directed to the

arising from an increased secretion of bile, and
 its accumulation in the vena porta,
 which either be reabsorbed into the stomach
 vessels or pass by the body together
 with mucus, foul tongue, loss of appetite and
 indigestion, or being directed to the intestines,
 excites a painful diarrhoea, ultimately tending
 to weaken their tone, and disturb their regular
 peristaltic motion. &c. &c.

Persons, who are in a profuse perspiration the application
 of even the slightest degree of cold is pregnant
 with danger. It certainly is so and on more
 accounts than one, for not only is the animal
 heat lost suddenly and rapidly, abstracted, but the
 extreme vessels on the surface and likewise those
 of the vena portarum are instantly struck to spasm
 the perspiration and biliary secretion are arrested,
 and a congestion throughout the portal circle is the result.

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Let the facts corroborate this doctrine.

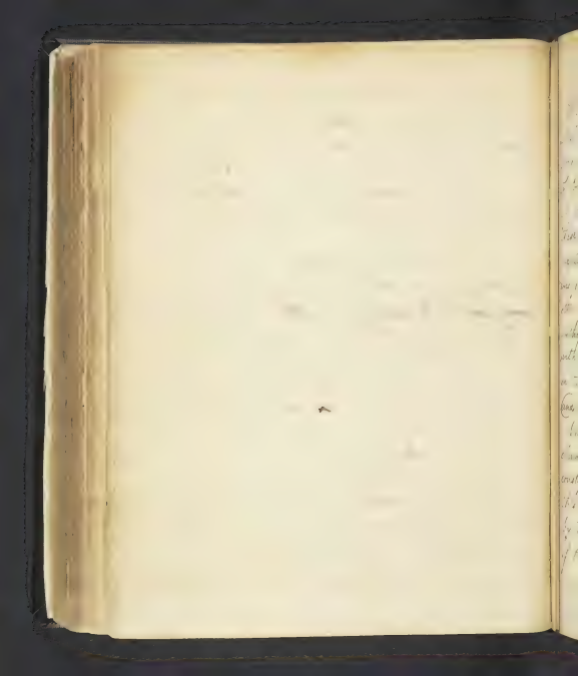
I shall adduce no more examples, those already advanced afford unimpeachable proofs of the sympathy in question, This symptom alone proves the manner in which heat operates in aiding or being one cause of disease.

Ecciting causes

A number of the causes already cited are ~~ecciting~~ (and predisposing), I will mention those which most generally smother the latent spark, First, excessive fatigue, heat, application of cold, a draught of cold water when the system was greatly heated, brought it on, ~~and~~ some, escape in the usual fluids &c.

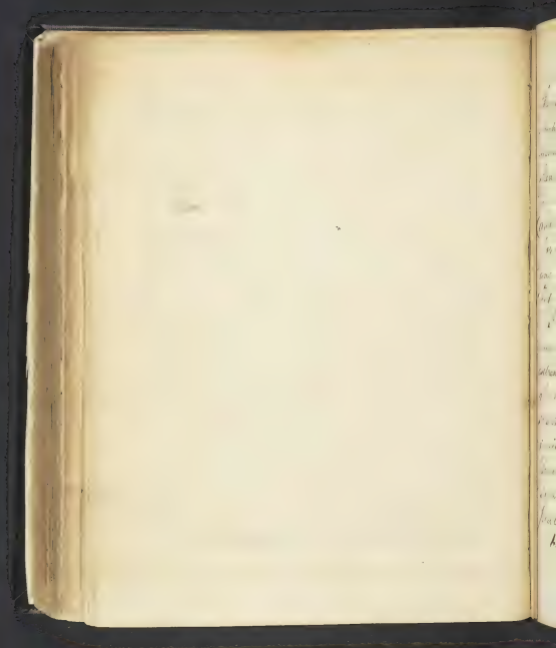
Symptoms

These were so extremely diversified in their features by pecuniarity of ~~constitution~~ ^{temperament} in it, and it is very difficult to give even a general outline, without involving apparent contradictions.



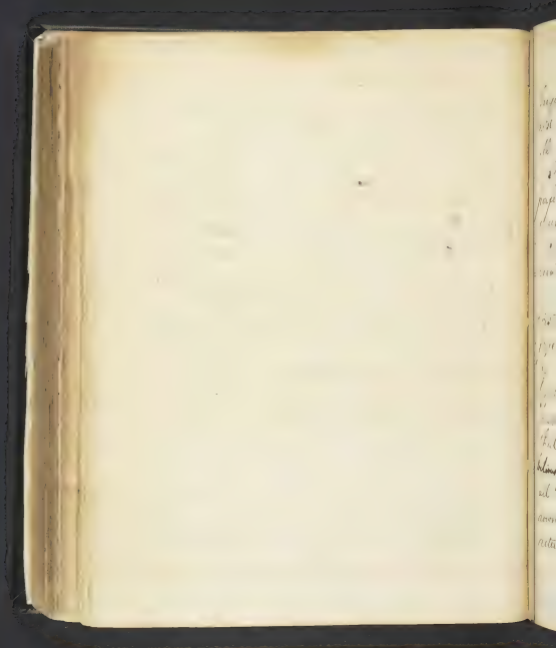
There were however always some prominent symptoms which continually manifested themselves, for some practical purpose, which is the chief object in view. There was extreme irritability, 'Suction' of mucous membranes, Rumbled bowels, all these be absent. The pulse soft & compressible, irregular and frequent, but not invariably so, the eyes inflamed and animated, pupils contracted, at other times dull and dilated. The patient without much obvious notice, was suddenly seized with lassitude, giddiness and chilliness, more in the extremities, frequently in the nuchal and lumbar regions, with sense of debility.

Great warmth over the umbilical, the hands were almost always in a state of dysenteric irritation or constipation, in such things as natural stools in this form were ever to be seen, unless procured by art. Frequently, but not invariably, yellowings of the eyes and even of the skin took place;



the mental functions were very generally affected, which indeed is characteristic of all bilious diseases. As this fever advanced, the symptoms often were aggrivated, at other times it abated, and they were, the reply would be very well (and they seemed surprised at the emotion, for that they would not complain of sickness or any local pain, but observed they were very weak and wished something to strengthen them.

I have remarked that when there was much pain (and inflammation in any one of the extremities, the disease was very intractable (and of long continuance, even if the arterial system and coolness of the surface were indicative of some tonic if administered, the fever would at once be re-excited. This observation is one of the above mentioned, particularly demanded the use of purgatives containing of dark or green bilious stuff

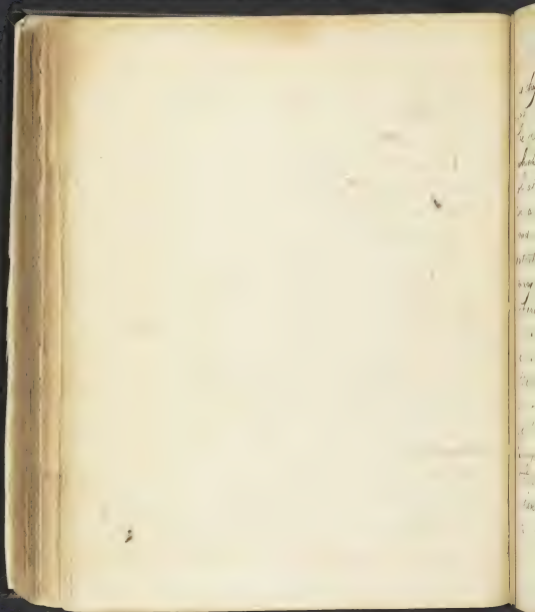


frequently commenced early (and continued a most distressing symptom, to which all our attempts to relieve.

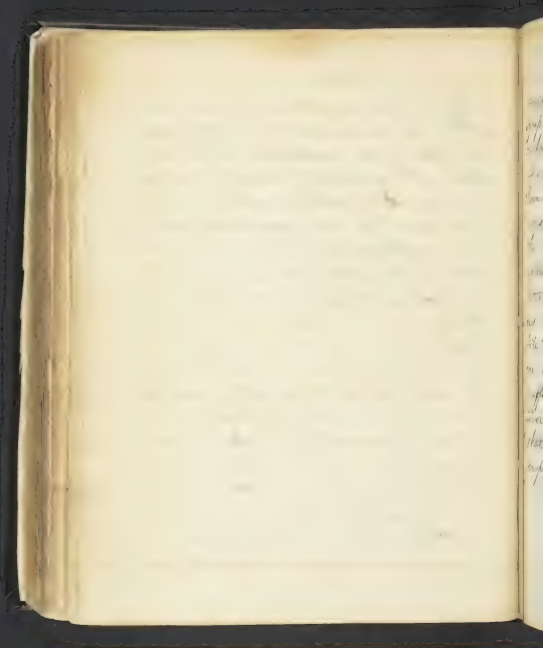
In some a burning & irritated h. is covered perfectly dark (and thick, at other times green resembling moss or green leaves bruised.

I presume that the symptoms cited are sufficient for the illustration of this fever.

I shall now commence with the remedies that are recommended, & the practitioner must rely upon his own judgement be governed by existing symptoms, and not by the anticipation of consequent debility from vascular illness. Dr Johnson observes that when we wish to arrest the progress of bilious fever etc etc it would be should in all cases, where the constitution is not broken down by climate, and particularly where determinations to the brain or liver are conspicuous



as they too often are, take one copious bleed-
 ing at the commencement of the hebetation must
 be guided by the judgment of the practitioner,
 which will very effectually promote the operation
 of all secretory and somatic measures, (and in a
 great degree, those visceral obstructions
 and clonements which this Fever so frequently
 extracts on the patient, without which it in
 many cases was impossible to get purgatives to
 operate. When there was pain in the head
 or side, conjunctiva of the eyes inflamed,
 flushed, great dyspnoea, or edema across
 the breast, the use of the lancet was resorted
 to, in order to relieve the engorgement and determination
 of blood to particular viscera. All of these
 symptoms did not often or invariably make
 their appearance in the same patient, but
 when any one of them did we were compelled
 to detract blood. It was frequently



necessary when vomiting was a prominent
 symptom, also when after giving two or three
 cathartics, without their having the slightest
 effect, bleeding would relax the system, that
 from the intimate connexion existing, would
 relax the structure of the bowels and place
 the system in an apt situation for their
 appropriate action. When there was a
 determination of blood to the intestines, produ-
 ced by some irritating matter, such as acrid
 bile &c. &c. causing bloody discharges, no
 one would tend to deny its utility. The
 proofs of benefit from venesection in the bilious
 fever of all climates having so multiplied
 that it is needless to insist further on the
 propriety of this measure.

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Emetics

These were important remedies in the commencement of this fever, before it had assumed its most malignant type, saw in the months of June, July & August, after this the stomach was generally too irritable to admit of their use.

They cleansed the stomach more thoroughly when deemed prudent to prescribe them, than any other articles. They were mostly inadmissible in the advanced stage of fever, owing to the exhaustion of the stomach to apparent inflammation.

Cathartics

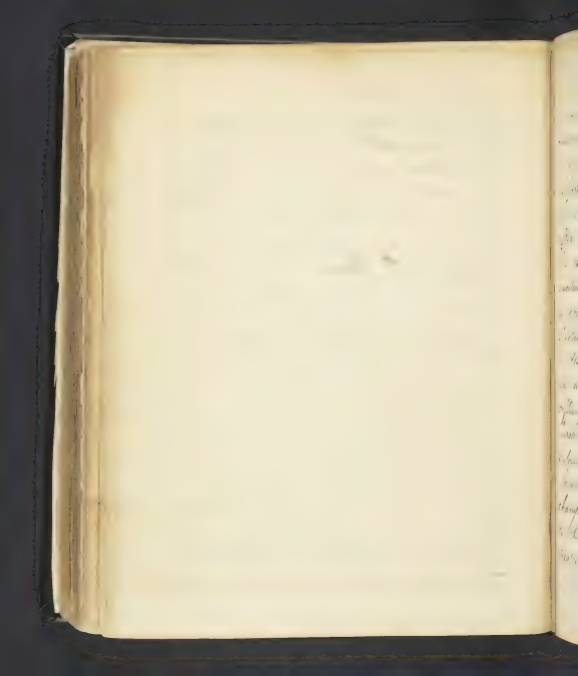
These were found to be the most important agents in the cure of this fever, without a perseverance in their use, all other attempts were futile. It was the most successful



practice after bleeding (if necessary) to administer a large dose of calomel and Jalap or calomel alone and after an interim of four or five hours to aid its operation with Jalap and Cream Tart. or Castor Oil.

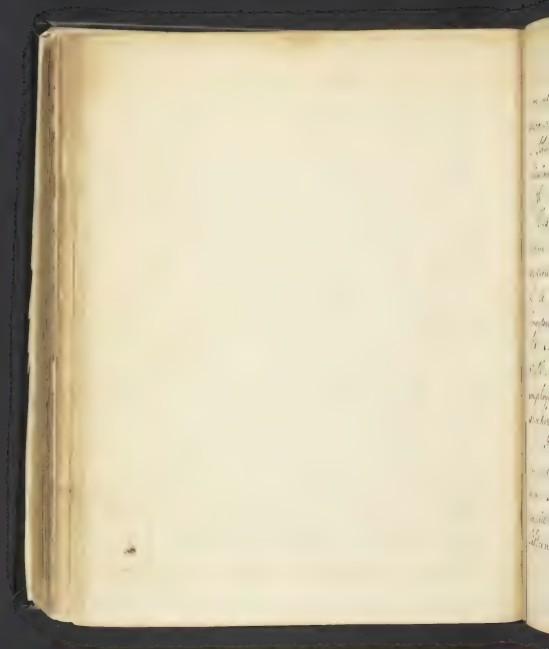
If after giving two or three cathartics and they did not ~~have~~ the desired effect of relieving the patient, we gave the 'antimonial' powder, varying the proportions of its ingredients according to the symptoms.

Though it was frequently the case the Stomach being so extremely irritable, that we could not, at any degree of propriety use this powder, owing to the tartar which it contained, we then were compelled to resort to the use of calomel alone and that given in broken doses (say from three to five grains every two hours until the patient had taken forty or fifty or it operated). If this portion did not operate sufficiently active, we generally aided it with mild laxatives, Sulphate of



course of treatment of the disease
continued until, as the disease
continued, it was found that the
cathartics did not appear to be improving and some
of the return and continuation of the dyspeptic symptoms
after it was effected. To facilitate and honorate
the most desirable effect, purgative enemas were
resorted to, We tried the saline mixture, but with
no good effect. A blister applied over the
epigastrium region was an invaluable remedy.

As long as the tongue remained furred or
red and dry, papae dark, green, brown or like
coffee grounds and offensive, the surface dry and
harsh to the feel, we continued the use of
calomel in broken doses, and purged with it
often until the tongue was cleansed, the papae
changed from their dark and unnatural appearance
to that of yellow. Whenever this mode of
treatment was about to prove unsuccessful,



we at once endeavoured to saturate the system with
mercury & produce a local itgation, which with
a few exceptions was effected by continuing the
administration of calomel in small portions, together
with the inunction of mercurial ointment.

This grand point being obtained the disease
soon yielded; It is the Time our now^d in the
medical treatment of this Fever as well as others
of a bilious character, when not yielding to the
 foregoing treatment. Vomies are never wanting until
the Mercurial action was at end, very frequently not
at all. When thought advisable to use ~~tonics~~, we
employed, Bark & Colombo combined with Virginia
Snake-root, Doarhound, in decoction &c.

I will once more add that I am of opinion
in all intermittent or remittent Fevers, the liver
and Spleen are more or less affected, If you
would examine children to the age of twelve or
fifteen living near creeks or rivers in this State



from the sea board as far north as this which
 is about 32° N. E. you would find them all
 with enlargement of the spleen.

This fever was in many instances of the
 tertian claps; the cold fit lasting from five to
 six hours, which seemed to threaten the life of
 the Patient, in several instances I have heard of
 its proving fatal, By giving equal parts of
 Laudanum and Antimonial Wine, commencing two
 hours previous to the accession of the paroxysm,
 say two tea spoonfulls at a dose, in a little
 warm tea and repeated every half hour, until
 a copious sweat was produced, never failed to
 stop it and gave sufficient time to jump the
 bowels. The Jela Anurei was sold with
 great success in an adjoining County. No
 article of the Materia Medica possesses great
 medicinal powers, has been more neglected
 than Colub. This has arisen from the

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difficultly in preparing, in part the artists
 genuine and also from the contradictory statements
 of respectable practitioners. We are directed to
 procure that which is the product of the black
 Spider, in cellars and other dark situations, and
 that it should be devoid of an adhesive
 quality. The best test for trying this article
 is the smell, that which is effectually ~~proves~~
 a peculiar nauseous, and that which is inert
 having little or no smell. Its operation in
 certain cases is violently stimulant, producing
 a glow of heat over the body, which
 previous to its administration was cold, in
 other cases it had no perceptible operation.
 Prior to its exhibition an emetic or purge
 should be given. It is difficult to determine
 with any degree of accuracy the quantity
 necessary to arrest the progress of an
 Intermittent, having found five grains as—



effectual as thirty. It is perhaps best to follow Dr. Jackson's directions, by giving to an adult ten grains, every two hours, commencing five hours previous to the expected paroxysm. Its exhibition during the cold stage is not infrequently attended by a complete solution of the disease.

It will be found no less useful in the bilious remittent fever, particularly where the remission is considerable and the paroxysms regular in their return, in this case its use should always be preceded by copious purging

Case 1st-

I was attacked about the first of July with an intermittent of the quotidian type, it resisted the power of Bark alone, bark and rust of iron combined and sudorifics for six weeks

11
I have a copy of a letter
from the Secretary of the
Board of Education to the
Commissioner of the
Department of Education
dated 18th March 1871
in which the Secretary
states that the Board
have decided to send
a copy of the report
of the Committee on
the Education of the
Deaf and Dumb to
the Commission of the
Department of Education
and to the Commission
of the Department of
the Interior.

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Lever
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but

when a dose of cob web was administered
and effectually prevented the return of
Fever. Case 3rd

J. L. after having ague and fever
for eighteen months, was completely cured
by ~~one~~ dose of the above named
article; he had taken large quantities
of bark and repeated emetics before
the accession of the paroxysm, without
the least abatement of the disease

I could cite a number of other cases
but deem those two sufficient.

Finis

